

## Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04

SIL-01 L-02 SAJ-01 /056 W  
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R 161715Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9047

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

US MISSION EC BRUSSELS 5849

UNCLAS ROME 0691

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, IT

SUBJECT: PROGRESS IN GOVERNMENT-LABOR TALKS ON PENSION INCREASES

REF: ROME'S 181

1. /BEGIN SUMMARY/. MINISTER OF LABOR TOROS, AS PROMISED, YESTERDAY PRESENTED TO THE FEDERATION CGIL-CISL-UIL (CCU) THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO LABOR'S DEMAND FOR PENSION INCREASES. THE INITIAL LABOR REACTION IS FAVORABLE. THE TWO SIDES MEET AGAIN JANUARY 21. /END SUMMARY/.

2. THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES, IN EFFECT, THAT ALL PENSIONS UNDER 92,300 LIRE MONTHLY (ABOUT \$140; 650 LIRE EQUAL ONE DOLLAR) BE INCREASED BY 12,000 LIRE PER MONTH, THE INCREASE TO INCLUDE THE 13 0/0 ACROSS-THE-BOARD AUGMENTATION ALREADY BEING IMPLEMENTED AS A RESULT OF THE ANNUAL APPLICATION OF COST-OF-LIVING INDEX MOVEMENTS. MINIMUM PENSIONS WOULD BE INCREASED TO 55,000 LIRE MONTHLY. TOROS ALSO DECLARED THE GOVERNMENT FULLY DISPOSED TO DISCUSSING PENSION REFORMS AS REQUESTED BY THE UNIONS. THE SUBJECT OF GUARANTEED ANNUAL WAGES, THROUGH A REFORM OF THE WAGE SUPPLEMENT FUND, WAS ALSO UNCLASSIFIED

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DISCUSSED.

3. THE GOVERNMENT OFFER COMPARES WITH THE CCU DEMAND OF 15,000 LIRE PER MONTH INCREASE FOR ALL MONTHLY PENSIONS BELOW 100,000 LIRE. ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES, THE LABOR PROPOSAL WOULD HAVE COST 1300 BILLION LIRE ANNUALLY WHEREAS THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL WOULD SAVE SOME 350 BILLION LIRE FROM THAT SUM. THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL WILL BE STUDIED BY THE CCU CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS PRIOR TO THE JANUARY 21 MEETING.

4. TODAY, THE CCU IS MEETING WITH CONFINDUSTRIA (MANAGEMENT) TO DISCUSS GUARANTEED ANNUAL WAGES; TOROS IS JOINING THE TALKS. IT IS LIKELY THAT WAGE ESCALATION WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED, AT LEAST IN GENERAL TERMS.

5. COMMENT: THE TOROS PROPOSAL APPEARS TO BE A BREAKTHROUGH TOWARD THE RESOLUTION OF THE VARIOUS DEMANDS WHICH LABOR HAS BEEN UNSUCCESSFULLY LEVYING UPON GOVERNMENT AND MANAGEMENT, AND WHICH HAVE GIVEN RISE TO A NUMBER OF MAJOR STRIKE ACTIONS.VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

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